

BADEN-POWELL

The Two Lives of a Hero



Defender of Mafeking

Autographed in April 1906



Founder of Scouting

*from
the best known portrait of Baden-Powell
by David Jaggar, 1929*

BADEN-POWELL

THE TWO LIVES OF A HERO

Today, Lord Robert Baden-Powell is known world-wide as the founder of Scouting. In 1900, however, he was the most famous hero in England! This exhibit tells the story of "The Two Lives of a Hero" – The life of a soldier followed by his life as the founder of Scouting.

Baden-Powell's first life, ending as the "Defender of Mafeking," covers the period from his birth in London, England on February 22, 1857, through his retirement from the military. Shown are some highlights of his childhood, where the name B-P came from, plus his early military career. Particular emphasis is placed on the Siege of Mafeking in 1899-1900 where he earned everlasting fame both as a military hero and philatelically for the Baden-Powell head stamps issued in Mafeking, the Cape of Good Hope. The first life of a hero closed with his duty as Inspector General of Cavalry.

Shown here is a local usage cover franked with the small Baden-Powell head stamp on April 19, 1900.



In 1907, Baden-Powell held a trial camp for young boys at Brownsea Island. From this small start, the greatest youth movement in the world, Scouting, developed. Baden-Powell's second life was as the "Founder of Scouting." Highlights of his second life, shown philatelically, include Scouting's tiny beginning, the founding of the Girl Guides, the development of Scouting symbols and training, the naming of Baden-Powell as Chief Scout of the World, and his ceaseless efforts to help others and promote world Scouting. Included are World Jamborees, world-wide trips, and other early Scout leaders.

A special part of his second life was his marriage, at age 55, to Olave St. Clair Soames. She was his constant companion on their trips and became famous on her own right as the World Chief Guide. They retired to Kenya where his second life, as "Founder of Scouting," closed with his death on January 8, 1941.

This philatelic tribute to Baden-Powell in "Baden-Powell – The Two Lives of a Hero," includes the Baden-Powell head and bicycle stamp from the Siege, Mafeking covers, Baden-Powell notes and letters, rocket mail, maximum cards, special cancellations, slogan meters, souvenir sheets, specimen overprints, gutter pairs, etc.